



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Dr. T. Kenneth James
Commissioner
Arkansas Department of Education
Four State Capitol Mall, Room 304 A
Little Rock, AR 72201-1071

Dear Commissioner James:

On July 6, 2006, the Arkansas Department of Education submitted its revised State highly qualified teacher (HQT) plan. The peer reviewers found deficiencies in the original plan, and the Department asked that it be revised and re-submitted. We received the revision on September 29, 2006.

A Department of Education internal peer review committee reviewed revised plan. In general, the reviewers were pleased with the plan, finding only a few remaining deficiencies. To resolve outstanding questions and concerns raised in the internal review, Department Program Officer Miriam Lund had a lengthy discussion with Beverly Williams from the Arkansas Department of Education on November 9, 2006. As a result of this conversation, the Arkansas Department of Education made additional changes to the plan and filled in places where information was missing. A revised version of the plan was submitted to the Department on November 30, 2006, and has been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on November 30, 2006 meets all six requirements and is now approved. I would like to congratulate you and your staff for this excellent work. We recognize the substantial challenge it has been to prepare this plan, and we are encouraged that you were able to submit a complete and comprehensive plan.

We will post the November 30, 2006 revision of the plan on the Department's Web site in place of the plan that is currently posted. We look forward to our continued work together, including routine monitoring to ensure that your State implements the activities described in the plan to meet the HQT goal in 2006-07 and beyond, for the benefit of all students in Arkansas. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Stonehill (202-260-9737, or robert.stonehill@ed.gov), or Miriam Lund (202-401-2871, or miriam.lund@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson